

Treasured UUCP Members and Friends,

During our Annual Congregational Meeting last month, our Board brought a motion for your consideration: **the adoption of a proposed 8th Principle** (to added to the 7 Principles which are standard for most UU churches).

At the meeting, most of the members of the congregation attending seemed to be in favor of adopting the 8th Principle, but there was a long discussion about words. The motion was tabled so that we could determine our preference in its wording. Last week, all members and friends were invited to a 2nd Hour Word-Smithing Session to draft some alternative ways to word the Principle.

Below are the two alternatives created by the group who participated in the session. In addition, we added a third choice which is not to adopt the 8th principle at all. I'm writing to you on behalf of the UUCP Board of Governors to gather everyone's opinion as to which option is preferred by most of the congregation.

For those of us who are more comfortable with paper communications, a version of this will also be presented at church.

Option 1: "Active commitment to dismantle racism and other oppression in ourselves and our institutions, fostering The Beloved Community that models unity within diversity."

Option 2: "Active commitment to dismantle racism and other oppression in ourselves and our institutions."

Option 3: Do not adopt the 8th Principle as part of the UUCP stated beliefs.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q: Which of the two versions of the 8th Principle presented above is the one recommended by the UUA 8th Principle study group?

A: *Neither one. Our Board and members of the congregation felt that a shorter version of the original 8th Principle would fit better with the other 7.*

Here is the wording of the original:

"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

2. Q: Has the 8th Principle been officially adopted by UUA?

A: No, *the UUA has left it to individual congregations whether to adopt the 8th Principle. Since the 7 Principles have not been revised in almost 40 years, the UUA is working on an entirely different way to communicate UU Principles.*

3. Q: Has the 8th Principle been adopted by other UU churches?

A: Yes, at least 50 other UU churches have adopted it.

4. Q: Why adopt the 8th Principle?

A: Adoption of the 8th Principle makes our intentions explicit and reminds us that our work against racism and oppression is ongoing. As a predominantly white congregation, it's easy to forget.

5. Q: Does adopting the 8th Principle obligate us to specific action?

A: Only to the same extent that the other 7 Principles obligate us to action. Specific church-led activities depend on you, our members. Specific individual actions depend on each individual.

6. Q: What will happen with the 8th Principle if we adopt it?

A: The version that is determined to be most popular among our members will be added wherever our 7 Principles are presented, ie: our website, our printed handouts, and our video for Sunday Services.

7. Q: Can you remind me what our 7 Principles are?

- A:**
1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
 2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relation
 3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
 4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
 5. The right of conscience and the use of democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
 6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all
 7. Respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are all a part

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Please respond to this email with your choice of options OR fill out the paper consensus gathering form which will be provided at church on Sunday, June 11, and Sunday, June 18th.

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Thank you!

In love and fellowship,

Laura Keith King
On Behalf of the UUCP Board of Governors